283.8
Ab33
Cop1

FTA News

FOOD TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VI. No. 17 Oct. 1, 1946 68 Price 5 Cents

LIBRARY RECORD SEP 25 1946

Library U S Dept of Agriculture Washington D C

FTA Wins Strikes In Winston, Klein

Two major strike victories were chalked up by FTA-CIO this week, with a third expected hourly as FTA News goes to press.

One victory was the settlement of the two month strike at the Winston Leaf House in Winston-Salem, N. C., with a similar settlement due in the Piedmont Leaf House in the same city.

The other victory was the settlement of a three month strike at the D. Emil Klein Co., cigar makers, in New York, N. Y., New Brunswick and Trenton, N. J.

Gains won in the Winston settlement include a 60c minimum wage, a seven cents across the board raise, three paid holdiays, and three hours call-in pay.

In addition, the Winston workers won time and a half pay after 40 hours in any one week and eight in any one day, plus a reduction to seven weeks on the overtime exemption period.

This reduction cuts the period during which overtime is not paid from the standard 14 weeks allowed by the Wage Hour Act in half, and in itself amounts to a substantial pay raise.

Union Security Won

Finally, the Winston contract grants union maintenance and the checkoff to Local 22. Similar terms will be included in the Piedmont agreement.

In the Klein settlement, sent to arbitration as FTA News went to press, FTA leaders expressed confidence that all points demanded by the workers would be won.

Commenting on the end of the three month old strike, FTA Vice-President Armando Ramirez declared:

"In view of the extremely reasonable demands raised by the union and the justification of these demands in the light of previous negotiations, it is anticipated that the union will be granted the bulk of the points to be arbitrated.

"Among these are a wage increase of not less than 12.5c an hour, a union shop in all three plants with one bargaining unit covering them, an increased life insurance of $500, and other features."

Tough Battles

The strikes at Winston and Piedmont were among the toughest battles yet fought by FTA workers. The company, the city authorities and the police were solidly lined up against the strikers—with the AFL hovering in the background hoping to take over if the workers lost.

Police violence began early in the strikes, with FTA picketlines being opened up by clubs, strikers thrown into jail and other means used in the attempt to break their spirit.

One of the principal methods used was hunger, in the hope that the workers, with their small resources quickly exhausted, would be forced back into the sheds.

This was attempted by the city authorities, working with the companies, when they denied the union the right to solicit funds for relief.

None of these tricks succeeded, however, and the workers stayed out on the line, with support from FTA Local 22 and the rest of the international union, until they won their points.

Guide For Others

The Winston and Piedmont settlements, in which FTA President Donald Henderson participated, are expected to serve as a guide for future contracts in the leaf tobacco industry.

The settlements also contrast sharply with the failure of the AFL union in the field to win anything comparable to FTA gains.

AFL contracts in the area have a 43c minimum, as compared to FTA's 60c. They do not have overtime pay, or where they do, they leave the standard 14 week exemption untouched.

Approximately 1,600 workers were involved in the Winston and Piedmont strikes, and a total of about 500 were out in the Klein strike in New York and New Jersey.

FTA Gets 17,000 Cannery Votes

Despite an unparalleled campaign of terror, lies and smears against the CIO, 17,000 workers voted for FTA in the cannery election in northern California August 29 and 30.

FTA did not win the election in the big unit covering 63 canneries under the California Processors and Growers Assn. FTA did win clear majorities in five independent canneries, giving the union bargaining rights in them.

The AFL Teamsters union, brought in by the cannery bosses to freeze out CIO, did not win a clear majority in the CP&G plants, falling short about 700 votes which they must pick up from the challenged ballots.

Immediate protest against the election was filed with the NLRB by FTA President Donald Henderson, based on the fact that the election was illegal in the first place and was conducted under such conditions of extreme intimidation that a valid vote could not be taken.

Commenting on this, Henderson said: "In fact, the election was illegal and undemocratic from the moment the employers signed a collusive backdoor contract with the Teamsters in March and began firing FTA supporters.

"By this action, the NLRB and the cannery employers have thrown the Wagner Act out the window. The Teamsters, of course, never had any intention of obeying it."

Every weapon in the anti-union book was thrown at the cannery workers in the campaign. The cannery bosses, the AFL Teamsters, the NLRB, the press, the radio—and even in some places, the pulpit — were against FTA.

Despite this, 44 percent of the workers braved the red-baiting and the terror to vote for a union of their own choice, the FTA-CIO. To put it another way, for every 100 votes the Teamsters got, FTA got 93.

Red-baiting was one of the principal tools in the AFL-company campaign. It reached such a point that the union filed a libel suit for $500,000 against AFL officials in California. The suit is based on a forged photograph purporting to show FTA and Communist party leaders together, and on a leaflet alleging that FTA and CIO are "controlled by Moscow."

But the main weapon the AFL company union had—and used—was the illegal contract. This gave them their chance to fire hundreds of CIO supporters out of the plants and to intimidate enough of the rest to give them a bare plurality.

This, however, is also one of the weak points in the AFL-cannery bosses setup. FTA filed charges with the NLRB and the courts are aimed at upsetting this contract, reinstating the fired workers and producing a condition where a free election can be held.

FTA supporters in the canneries are not giving up the fight for a real cannery workers union. As Henderson said when the count was announced:

"The fight of the cannery workers for a decent, honest union in the CIO has just begun. They will keep up the good fight, and the FTA will be in there pitching with them, until company unionism is thrown out of California for good and all."

The company union role of the Teamsters was proved not only by the backdoor contract signed by the bosses last March, but also by the vote in the one plant where the employer refused to favor either union.

This plant was Pacific Grape in Modesto, where the workers, given a free vote, went FTA by 496 to 76.

This fact is clear proof that FTA will get a similar landslide vote in a free election in all the other canneries.

The fight now shifts from the election drive to a struggle to free the cannery workers from company - unionism throughout the state.

This fight will shape up in the NLRB, the courts and the canneries themselves—where 17,000 workers who voted FTA will lead it.

And when the fight is over, company unionism will be a thing of the past in the California canneries.

Here's Proof of the Pudding

Here's proof of what FTA and CIO have been saying about the company union role the AFL Teamsters play in the California canneries.

It comes straight from the horse's—pardon us, boss's mouth in their official business magazine "The Canner." Writing on the California election, The Canner says:

"On the strength of Mr. Murray's presentation of the case (in the election) we'll ride along with Dan Tobin and his AFL Teamsters.

"We think they have a clearer conception of what made the U. S. a great industrial nation and more willingness to cooperate with management in order that both capital and labor may keep it strong."

How the bosses dearly love a fink—especially when he bears an AFL Teamster label!

FTA Tops In Elections

FTA-CIO's score in tobacco leaf house elections in North Carolina is tops—and is due to go still higher with more NLRB votes set this month and next.

Here's the score to date, showing that FTA has blanketed the AFL and no union in the votes held so far in the leaf houses of North Carolina, and promising equal success in the series still to come:

J. F. Taylor Co., Henderson, N. C.: Of 600 workers eligible, 513 chose FTA, none chose AFL and 16 went no union.

W. A. Adams Tobacco Co., of Oxford, N. C.: Of 250 workers eligible, 184 chose FTA, two chose AFL and 21 went no union.

China American Tobacco Co., Rocky Mount, N. C.: Of 600 workers eligible, 277 chose FTA, 184 chose AFL and 37 went no union.

Elections Set

Further elections set for September were scheduled in eight plants in North Carolina as FTA News went to press. These were:

Bright Leaf and Burley Tobacco Co., Smithfield, N. C., 450 workers employed; election set for September 20; Export Leaf Tobacco Co., with plants employing 900 workers in Kinston, Greenville and Oxford, N. C., set for September 24 and 27; Person and Garrett Tobacco Co., 300 workers; Greenville Tobacco Co., 250 workers and E. B. Ficklen Tobacco Co., 450—all in Greenville, N. C., and all set for September 26, and finally, Imperial Tobacco Co., with 700 workers, set for October 1 in Greenville.

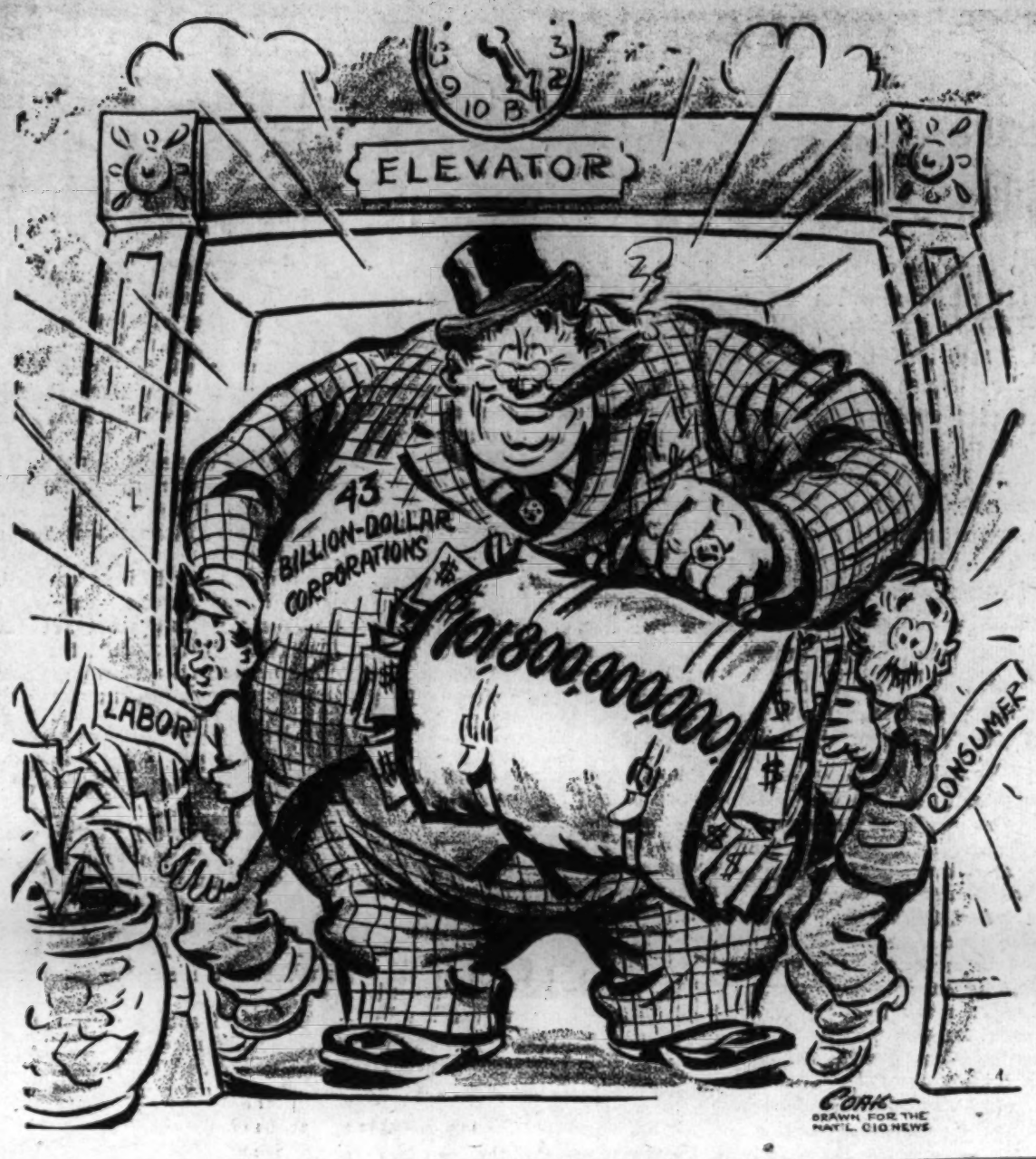
Hearings are now being held or scheduled by the NLRB in another 12 plants in North Carolina and Virginia involving some 4,000 workers. Election dates were not yet set as FTA News went to press.

In addition, FTA is organizing in another 24 plants in the two states employing more than 10,000 workers. Altogether, more than 20,000 workers are involved in elections won, scheduled or pending.

And the AFL, which has settled in one or two leaf houses for as low as 43c an hour and no overtime, is having a hard job competing with FTA.

DONT UNLOAD SHIPS WITH SCABS!
SS JOSEPH BLOCK IS LOADED WITH SCABS!
56 HOURS SMASH
CRANE MEN SUPPORT YOUR CIO BROTHERS!
DONT UNLOAD HOT SHIPS
SCAB SHIPS DOCKED HERE!
RESPECT CIO PICKET LINE
STRIKEBREAKERS ON BOARD DONT UNLOAD!
SS LEBLOCK IS LOADED WITH SCABS!
DONT UNLOAD SHIPS WITH SCABS!

FTA solidarity with striking National Maritime Union members in the Great Lakes area brought these FTA members out on the picketlines. In the picture are members of FTA Local 194, Chicago, with retiring Regional Director Jack Fox (left, standing), Local 194 Organizer Paul Gardner, FTA Intl. Representative John Sloan, and others.



PAC Drive Urged To Halt Reaction, War

To FTA Locals:
Greetings:

So much depends on the November elections that I am writing you specially, asking that this letter be read and discussed at your Executive Board and membership meeting.

In the last big elections in 1944, we had the job of organizing to reelect Roosevelt and people who supported him. Roosevelt spoke for the destruction of the fascists — the people's enemies —the world over, in order to have prosperity at home and peace in the world. He fought for measures to win these goals.

In spite of the stiffening opposition of Big Business, bigots and the whole conglomeration of backward people who oppose progress for the people, Roosevelt was victorious. Now, without Roosevelt's leadership, but through the strength of our own organization leading the people, we carry on the fight.

Today we face the same great issues—to win prosperity and peace. Congress refused to enact the Roosevelt program for prosperity. Our living standards are being pushed down through rising prices. A terrible depression and unemployment will engulf us unless this trend is reversed. Our foreign policy has departed so far from that of Roosevelt that now reactionaries are speaking openly of another war.

In CIO we have the chance to fight. We need not take this situation lying down. In some areas you have the job of electing Congressmen and other officials who stand four-square for the Roosevelt program. In others, the main battle is to prevent reactionary candidates from getting into office.

The job of every FTA local is this:

First of all, you work with the CIO Council in your locality or state, and your most capable union leader should be your PAC representative for this job.

Your local's PAC leader brings to you the CIO plans for the area and information on the candidates. The membership must be fully educated on whom CIO is backing, and why.

Your PAC representative on CIO committees also leads the Local in carrying out the PAC work. These are the main jobs:

1. $1 PAC contribution.
2. All members registered so they can vote.
3. Canvassing in the neighborhoods to campaign for favorable votes and to bring these voters out on election day.

Enclosed is material you will find helpful: "Break Reaction's Grip," the CIO report on voting records, judged according to the Roosevelt-CIO program. And an article on PAC Clubs. (We can send you more of these. However, if you need a large quantity of "Break Reaction's Grip," order direct from CIO.)

Please return the enclosed report form so we may know what progress you are making. If you have questions, please let us know so we can help you.

Looking for the full weight of the FTA membership to swing behind victory in the November elections,

Fraternally yours,
DONALD HENDERSON
General President

Local Union Activities:

1. $1 PAC Contribution. We have collected $_____. We have the following plans to complete the job:

2. Registration. We have about _____ members who are not registered to vote. We will get them registered in the following manner:

3. PAC Ward Clubs. We have about _____ members active in PAC Ward Clubs. Here is how we intend to enlist more members in this activity:

The most important election campaigns for this local are for the following offices: (state name of CIO-supported candidate in each case):

The Local is represented on the City (or County PAC Committee by:

(name): _____
(office in local): _____
(address): _____

This PAC report submitted by _____ for Local: _____

Please be prompt: Mail this report promptly to FTA-CIO, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.

The Fight Goes On

(See story, page 1)

The California cannery election gave a bare plurality—not a majority—to the AFL company union set up under the Teamsters brotherhood.

The employes, the AFL Teamsters, the courts, the NLRB, the press and the radio had the cards stacked against a free choice by the workers. Teamster goons roamed freely through every cannery.

In spite of this, nearly half the votes were for FTA-CIO. For every 100 votes that went AFL, 98 went CIO.

The vote is a tribute not only to FTA and CIO but also to the courage of the workers who braved the AFL-company terror.

The odds they were fighting against add up to one thing—if we let it go on—and that one thing is fascism.

Fascism is an ugly word, but company unionism is a fact and company unionism leads to fascism.

The AFL officials have chosen the role of Hitler's stormtroopers in the drive of big business in California and elsewhere in the U.S. for company union domination.

Every trick in the Hitler book was used by the AFL leaders. The technique of the "big lie" was their chief weapon—that and physical violence, both threatened and practiced.

Hitler used red-baiting to get to power. So do the AFL company union leaders. Hitler used forgery, lies, threats and armed bullies. So do the AFL company union leaders.

Yet Hitler failed—but not before the free world united to defeat him.

So will the employers and their company union stormtroopers fail—because the free workers will unite to defeat them.

The unity and courage of the rank and file workers, in the canneries and elsewhere, will defeat them. The leadership of FTA and CIO shows the way. And despite all the terror, nearly 50% of the cannery workers in northern California voted for FTA and CIO.

That is the promise of victory over company unionism —in the canneries and every place where men and women work for a living.

Here's The Score

Here's the way the votes lined up in the northern California cannery elections, held August 29 and 30. The vote includes both those for the "big unit" of 63 canneries in the California Processors and Growers Assn. and the independents. Approximately 53,000 workers were eligible to vote.

For FTA-CIO	16,953
For AFL company union	18,256
For no union	766
Challenged ballots	2,337
TOTAL OF VALID VOTES CAST	38,582

FTA news

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

Editorial Office:
1505 Race Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

Donald Henderson.....General President
Harold J. Lane.....General Secetary-Treasurer

Vice-Presidents

Lewis Bentzley, John Mack Dyson, Louis F. Jedlicka, Luisa Moreno, Otis Nation (on leave), Armando Ramirez, Robbie Mae Riddick, Dixie Tiller, Armando Valdes, Owen H. Whitfield

C. W. Fowler.....Editor

Subscription: $1 a year to non-members

"Reentered as second class matter December 30, 1944, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Published twice a month from September to July inclusive and monthly in August at 838 Greenwich Street, New York 14, N. Y.

Vol. VI October 1, 1946 No. 17

California CIO Protests Election

Secretaries of California state and local CIO councils this week told NLRB Regional Director Joseph E. Watson that the Labor Bord should set aside the cannery election conducted August 29 and 30 becaus• of what they called "the grossly illegal conditions that prevailed during the election under the company-Teamster collusive agreement."

The delegation was composed of Secretary Mervyn Rathborne of the state CIO council, Secretary Paul Schnur of the San Francisco CIO and Secretary Roy Sturtevant of the Contra Costa county CIO.

Mr. Watson agreed to transmit to the NLRB in Washington the CIO objections to the election and the Board's procedure in holding the election "while management and the Teamsters union were carrying out an illegal agreement which the Board had ordered them not to enter."

The CIO spokesmen said that similar sharp objections would be presented direct to the NLRB in Washington by national CIO spokesmen, supporting the demands of the CIO Food, Tobacco & Agricultural Workers union that the election be held void because of intimidation and wholesale firing of CIO supporters in the plants.

Mr. Watson promised to forward the CIO demand for early action on several hundred cases filed on behalf of workers fired from canneries for supporting the CIO union or refusal to pay dues to the Teamster cannery union, after the illegal contract had been signed by management and the AFL union officials.

The FTA-CIO has filed extensive objections to the election with the regional Board, and will shortly submit supporting affidavits signed by hundreds of workers, the regional office of FTA said following the delegation to Watson.

Local 145, of Portland, Ore., has its charter presented and its officers sworn in. The new local goes under the name Cannery and Food Process Workers, and represents a fighting group of workers determined to bring canneries throughout Oregon into FTA. FTA Organizing Director John Tisa (left) gives the oath to L. D. McLane, financial secretary; John Jeppesen, guide; Kenneth Smith, president; Estella Patterson, recording secretary; Elizabeth Briscoe and Margaret Daw, trustees; Maxine McKee, grievance committee; Cecil Prettyman, guard and Ralph Wilson, vice president.

Urge NLRB Void Cannery 'Farce'

Strong support for FTA's demand to set aside the company-dominated cannery election held by the NLRB, was voiced this week by CIO leaders in northern California.

From the offices of the state CIO council, Secretary Mervyn Rathbone said:

"California cannery workers are to be congratulated on the splendid showing they made in the election. Never before in the history of American labor have 17,000 votes been cast for honest unionism, in the face of such illegal pressure by the bosses.

"The CIO's opponent on the NLRB ballot was not only the company union chartered by the AFL Teamsters. Actually the opponent was terror, deliberately built up by the bosses inside the plants, while the NLRB refused to act on open violations of the Wagner Act.

"The California CIO backs FTA's fight to disregard the votes cast under these phony, fear-ridden conditions. We call on the Board to uphold the law, too long defied in the canneries."

Secretary Paul Schlipf of the Alameda CIO council said:

"There's never been any doubt where CIO members in Alemeda county stood in the fight to bring a free union and security to cannery workers. Today we still stand squarely behind FTA-CIO.

"The so-called election, conducted amid company-union conditions and fear, proved only this—that the National Labor Relations Board must set aside the illegal 'sweetheart' deal cooked up by the cannery bosses, so an honest and fair election can be held.

"We know what the result of such an election will be—a sweeping victory for FTA-CIO."

Secretary Paul Schnur of the San Francisco CIO council said:

"CIO unionists here are 100% behind the demand that the Labor Board recognize the illegal conditions that prevailed in the cannery election, and refuse to issue any certification of a collective bargaining agent on the basis of such a vote.

"We are just as solid behind this demand as we have been in support of the entire FTA campaign to bring worker-controlled unionism to the canning industry in place of company-controlled dues collecting machines."

Secretary Roy Sturtevant of the Contra Costa CIO council said:

"Every union member who believes that workers should have the right to select their own union free from fear and boss control, must take the stand that this CIO council takes—

"I mean the stand in support of the solid objections that FTA-CIO has raised to the election that took place a few days ago in the northern California canneries.

"This election was a farce, and a smear on the good name of the National Labor Relations Act. The board appointed to uphold and administer that act has a legal duty to set that election aside and rid the canneries of the boss-Teamster collusion. It is a Siamese twin relationship, and makes a fair vote impossible while it continues."

Local 22 Lists Contract Points

Local 22, with a new contract from the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. (makers of Camels cigarettes) under its belt, has embarked on a campaign to acquaint all members with the specific details of the benefits the new agreement brings.

Undertaken by the local's education committee, of which Moranda Smith is chairman, a series of leaflets is being put out with the idea of making every member familiar with the contract that protects him.

Each leaflet is designed to cover one main point in the agreement, and four have already been distributed. The first one was on the seniority clause, the second on the steward system and grievance machinery, the third on union recognition and the fourth on holidays and hours of work. More are being prepared.

Reception of the leaflets has been good. One member said that they "remind the people to read their contract." A steward pointed out: "These leaflets help to clarify the contract in non-technical terms. The boss sure studies the contract, and the members should do the same."

Another member said: "The leaflets have helped familiarize the contract and have created a lot of discussion. The one on seniority was discussed a lot.

A sharp pickup in attendance at stewards' meetings was credited to the second leaflet by Steward John Minor. "Members in my shop are asking me more questions and seem to depend on me more since it came out," he said.

Social Notes In The AFL

Here's a little insight on one of our competitors—the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters union, the one that tried to bust up the FTA in Campbell's Soup at Camden and Chicago.

Seems that their Baltimore president, one William Jessup, has been charged with leading the local chapter of the "American Shores Patrol, Inc.," which the Philadelphia Inquirer describes as "the newly assumed name" of the Ku Klux Klan.

According to the Inquirer (which is no friend of labor, it's true, but hates the AFL much less than it hates CIO), Jessup wrote a letter saying: "and so as not to lose the funds, we had quite a few of the old Klan join this order, as new members, so as to retain their friendship."

The principal weapon the AFL Meat Cutters tried to use against FTA in the Campbell situation, it will be remembered, was red-baiting. And under that mask, what do we find—a KKK hood!

Quote Of The Week

Senator Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) keeps on being the most quotable man in American public life. Here's this week's item, presented at a political rally in New York:

"With conservative Democrats and reactionary Republicans making our foreign policy as they are today, it is all we can do to keep foolish people from having us pull a Hitler blitzkrieg and drop our atomic bombs on the Russian people.

"It is not so far from 'get tough' to 'get rough.' I think we ought to remember, however, that the last two fellows who tried to get rough with the Russians—you may remember them from their first names, Napoleon and Adolf—did not fare so well.

"You and I know that today the reason we have so much Republican unity behind the foreign policy is because there is so much McKinley imperialism in our foreign policy.

"What do you expect of a foreign policy which really meets the approval of Senator Vandenberg and John Foster Dulles?"

FTA 80 To 1 Shows Up Boss

BULLETIN: Workers at the Port Compress Co., Corpus Christi, walked out this week when the management flatly refused to stop stalling on demands for negotiation of a contract.

The employer thought he knew every trick in the book to defeat FTA.

At least, he read and studied and tried 'em all, including the tips put out by the National Association of Manufacturers on how to keep the CIO away from your door.

But they weren't good enough, for the workers at the Port Compress Co. in Corpus Christi, Tex., voted for FTA Local 54 by 80 to one in a collective bargaining election earlier this month.

Union-busting tricks—all of them illegal—tried by the company included such old familiar dodges as posting threatening notices in the plant, trying to learn names of FTA members for a blacklist, and discharging recognized local leaders.

In addition, management called in the leaders of a segregated local of the AFL Intl. Longshoremen's Assn., in the hope that they would help him keep FTA away—another vain hope, as it turned out.

A two hour FTA membership meeting in a nearby park, held during working hours, helped convince the boss that the workers meant business.

But it was the 80 to one vote that really showed him the FTA was in.

New Locals Chartered

Two new locals in widely separated parts of the country have been added to the FTA—one in Dade City, Fla., and the other in Reading, Penna.

The Dade City local, No. 43, has about 200 members, employed in the Pasco Packing Co. plant, where they can citrus fruit products.

Officers of the local are H. L. Burnette, president, Joseph Hillman, vice-president, and A. B. Winter, secretary-treasurer.

The new local in Reading is No. 106, and consists of workers at the Berks County Cooperative, a branch of the Farm Bureau Federation. The workers handle grain, feed, groceries, etc. Officers are Harold L. Ernst, acting president; Henry L. Troutman, acting vice-president; Gladys Troutman, acting secretary and Ward G. Miller, acting financial secretary.

Local 106 is busy drawing up by-laws under the FTA constitution, and is also working on a contract with the Co-op. So far, the management has been "too busy" to negotiate. A petition for an election has been filed.

'Tough' Boss Heeds FTA

Manager A. G. Beckmann of Pioneer Flour Mills in San Antonio, Tex., started out tough with Local 172 when the first negotiating meeting began—but he softened up considerably when he saw the local had complete backing from all his employes.

Beckmann's claim that FTA "represented nobody"—a claim that he accompanied with a series of anti-CIO wisecracks—evaporated when the committee showed him that it could quickly be enlarged to at least 95 percent of the working force in his plant.

Following this skirmish, a date has been set and negotiations will start soon on a brass tacks basis.

The workers in the mill joined Local 172 only recently, after some years under a typical AFL contract, which gave them no wage increase whatever.

Members of the negotiating committee are: Joe Garcia, a veteran of 48 years in the plant; Arthur W. Lich; Haskell Davis; Faustino Alfaro; Louis Kreusel; John Patin, chief engineer of the plant and a licensed attorney, and Henry Wilburn.

Future Of NLRB Hangs On The Cannery Vote

AN EDITORIAL

The outcome of the national labor relations board election just concluded in the canneries of northern California is about as close to being a "fair and free election" as the votes which Hitler staged in the small countries he was gobbling up.

Every device of Nazi control through intimidation, corruption and fraud has its parallel in the backdoor contracts, widespread firings and crude red-baiting forgeries by which the AFL Teamsters and cannery bosses barely staved off a victory by FTA-CIO.

The national board would have to be deaf, dumb and wilfully blind to certify the results of such an election in view of the documented proof of election violations submitted by the CIO, but AFL political pressure was successful once in having the results of an earlier, fair election won by FTA-CIO set aside. And that squeeze will be applied again.

The stake here is not just whether 60,000 cannery workers can get a fair election and choose their own union without fear of Teamster goons or management reprisals. The issue is whether the NLRB and the Wagner Act are to be instruments of protection for, or oppression of, all workers.

Its YOUR fight, because the NLRB will become a weapon for use against your union, against any bona fide union, if this election result is certified.

Every CIO local union should communicate at once with Joseph P. Watson, NLRB regional director, at 1095 Market St., San Francisco, asking that he recommend to the national board the setting aside of the cannery election result.

Ask him to recommend immediate hearings on the FTA-CIO's charges of back-door dealings by the California Processors & Growers and its individual companies.

Demand that the 500 discharged CIO supporters be reinstated at once with full back pay.

And send copies of all communications to Paul M. Herzog, chairman of the national labor relations board, Washington, D. C.

—From California Labor Herald

FTA Lists Vote Frauds

Setting aside of the results of the California cannery election was asked in a formal protest filed with the National Labor Relations Board by FTA-CIO.

In a 10-page brief bristling with proof of company collusion with the AFL Teamsters and nailing down charges of wholesale firings, forged leaflets and stickers and every other violation of NLRB procedure in the book, FTA called on the board to:

1. **Set aside the election result.**
2. **Hold speedy hearings on CIO-FTA unfair labor practices charges against the canneries for making illegal contracts with the Teamsters and firing FTA-CIO supporters.**
3. **Order immediate reinstatement of nearly 500 discharged CIO supporters with full back pay.**
4. **Set a new, fair election at the earliest possible date.**

Even as the CIO charges were being filed, the cannery bosses were continuing their brazen defiance of the Wagner act by firing men and women who had acted as official CIO observers in the cannery election.

Luisa Moreno, FTA-CIO vice-president, promptly announced the union would file another series of unfair labor practice charges with the NLRB in behalf of these workers.

FIGHT GOES ON

The union also announced it was continuing to maintain a staff in the cannery areas and appealed to the unions which had supported its drive financially to continue their support on a regular basis.

Company personnel managers served as election observers at several other plants, the FTA charged.

The companies applied pressure against FTA-CIO directly through their foremen and supervisors, compelled workers to remove FTA-CIO buttons, chased FTA-CIO sound trucks away while permitting Teamster representatives and sound trucks to come and go freely.

AFL had exclusive rights to use of plant bulletin boards for propaganda and was able to use company offices as campaign headquarters.

Forgeries by the Teamsters included circulation of a phony leaflet purported to come from FTA-CIO addressed to "Dear Comrade Cannery Worker" and telling of an alleged $10 assessment, most of which was to go to Russia, and only 50 cents of which was to go to FTA locals.

"The board must decide whether it will tolerate such conduct in a collective bargaining election," the brief declared.

"On its decision will hinge the question whether the election machinery of the Wagner act is to remain a reliable instrument for the expression of the voters' choice on real issues, or a tool for the perpetuation of Hitler-like frauds on the working people of the nation."

"GOODBYE DEAR—AND DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER."

CIO Union Hits Redbaiting Try

(FP)—In a hot 3-hour debate, the 11th international convention of the United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers (CIO) roundly denounced red-baiting and its destructive role in the labor movement and defeated a minority effort to bar communists from union office.

The 800-odd delegates voted 2,839 to 673 indorsing a Resolutions Committee majority report re-emphasizing the union's position that all members should have "full rights including the right to hold any position in the union regardless of craft, sex, race, nationality, religion or political belief."

The vote overrode a minority report submitted by 5 of the 30 members of the resolutions committee, condemning "nazis, fascists and communists as inimical to our union and country," and forbidding proponents of these beliefs from holding union office.

Organization Dir. James J. Matles asserted that redbaiting attacks made by a minority group under the leadership of Intl. Vice-Pres. Harry Block of Pennsylvania had immediately and directly affected organization. Employers used reports of the charges to defeat the UE in NLRB elections throughout the nation within the few days following their publication, he said.

CIO Sec.-Treas. James B. Carey, former UE president who is a delegate to the convention, supported the minority report and said he opposed all "totalitarianism."

CIO President Philip Murray highly praised the achievements of the union and its leadership and the excellent manner in which he said they had cooperated with him in carrying out national CIO policies. The UE is the third largest union in the CIO.

Jack Fox Leaving After Five Years With FTA

By Jack Fox

It is with deep regret that I find it necessary to leave FTA-CIO and the Illinois-Indiana Region.

Having been on the staff of our union for the past five years, I have seen FTA in action in many sections of the nation. Everywhere the correctness of FTA's program for the betterment of the daily life of the worker can be seen.

FTA is a good union. It is one that we can all be proud of. In war as in peace, FTA has done the job. Though we are not the largest union in CIO, we are the hardest fighting union. Ask any employer who clashed with FTA. FTA has and is always ready to put up the good fight for its membership.

JACK FOX

As a member of the staff of FTA, as Field Representative, International Organizer, and Regional Director, I have received the greatest cooperation from the International Union. The efficient manner in which our union is run is a credit to the labor movement. The democracy by which our union operates is something we all know about and cherish.

In taking this leave of absence, I wish to express the sincerest thanks of the Illinois-Indiana Regional Office to all the local unions in this area, the members, the officers, and the shop stewards. The Regional Office is indebted to the understanding you have given to it—an understanding that can only come from working people.

Lastly my thanks to the Executive Officers of the International Union whose guidance and collective leadership has made my work possible.

Up 23c Since V-J D

Total wage raises of 23c since V-J Day have been won by Local 59, Rochester, Minn., with the latest increase negotiated early in September.

The new agreement, signed by the Reid-Murdock cannery, was negotiated by a committee consisting of Local president Lowell W. Schulz, Louis Groen, Howard Sparrow and Lenore Lehnherr.

Local 24 Aids Farmers Union

Farmer-labor unity isn't something you just talk about. Local 24 of Bloomer, Wis., proved when it voted a $25 contribution to the Wisconsin Farmers Union building fund. This fund is being used to erect a state-wide educational center for training farm youth along union and cooperative lines. It will also go to buy a permanent office building for the state Farmers Union.

Waiting the verdict of the Nuremberg trials are Nazi war criminals Herman Goering, Rudolf Hess and Joachim Ribbentrop. Trial has dragged on nearly a year, with every chance for the accused to try to wriggle their way out of the gallows. Meantime, William Randolph Hearst's Intl. News Service has opened columns of hundreds of U. S. newspapers to their latest alibis, in a series of articles written by the Nazi murderers especially for Hearst.

Assessment Vote Date Extended To Oct. 15

With 71 of 121 eligible FTA locals voting yes on the $3.00 organizing assessment and some 37 still to vote, the international executive board this week extended the date for the vote to October 15.

This decision, OK'd by the general board, was proposed in a letter from FTA President Donald Henderson and Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane.

"One of the main reasons for a large number of the locals not voting is seasonality and the fact that it has been practically impossible for some of them to hold membership meetings during their busy pack months," the joint letter said.

"It is our opinion that the best interests of the organization can be serve. by providing additional time for these locals to take action on the assessment.

"We are therefore proposing that the voting period be extended to October 15. This would mean actually that by the time we have complied with the regulations of the constitution and the mechanics of notifying the locals that have not voted, the extension of the voting period would be approximately 30 days."

The letter also proposed changing the terms of collection to read:

"The assessment collection period will be from September 1, 1946 to August 31, 1947 and must be paid by all members in plants of all existing locals having collective bargaining contracts as of July 1, 1946 and all new members joining the local for a period of six months or more from such plants during the collection period."

This change was proposed — and OK'd by the Board — to eliminate the possibility of financial loss by locals collecting the amount from purely seasonal workers.

FTA Aids Chinese Workers

FTA support for the workers of China, now faced with suppression of all their unions and with arrest of their leaders, was given by President Donald Henderson this week.

The support was expressed in a letter from Henderson to Chu Hseuh-Fan, head of the Chinese Association of Labor, who had written him to tell of a vicious government raid on CAL headquarters in Chungking.

According to Chu's letter, both the offices of the CAL and a workers' hospital built by CIO contributions were suddenly raided last month by government police, and some 20 union officials locked up.

The raid was ordered by the reactionary Kuomingtang government of Chiang Kai-shek, which is kept in power only by the force of American arms and American troops.

"We know that this dictatorship is only kept in power by the force of American arms and is bolstered by the presence of American troops in your country," Henderson wrote.

"We are also aware that the same reactionary forces behind intervention in your country seek to impose reaction on us in America," he said, adding that FTA and CIO were demanding the withdrawal of all U. S. military aid to Chiang.

This intervention is part of the drive of U. S. monopoly for world-wide domination. Its success in China, as elsewhere, would strengthen it for further exploitation of U. S. workers here at home.

What — Us Strike? Well, Hardly Ever

One of the stock arguments the AFL Teamsters used in their campaign against FTA-CIO in the cannery elections in California (and the CIO everywhere else) is the old line that a vote for FTA means a vote for an immediate strike.

The AFL, the argument ran, never goes on strike. It doesn't have to, because the bosses are so nice to us that we don't need to hit the bricks. But that CIO . . . brrrr . . .

Well, this week 3,500 AFL truck drivers, members of the Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters, went on strike in northern California. According to the New York Times: "A strike by 3,500 truck drivers today stopped the haul of fresh fruit and vegetables to northern California canneries, which normally produce about one-third of the nation's pack."

Also this week, and the week before, about 12,000 truck drivers, members of the AFL Teamsters, were out in New York City, striking as much against their phony leadership as against the employers. (Incidentally, that strike is the cause of the delay on this issue of FTA News, since paper has to be trucked to our printers.)

And wasn't there a strike of AFL seamen? And what's more, the CIO maritime workers supported it—which is more than some AFL maritime leaders are allowing their members to do.

A strike by CIO, it seems, is pretty awful . . . communism and worse . . . but a strike by AFL, ah, that's something different.

CIO Asks Crackdown On Goods Hoarding

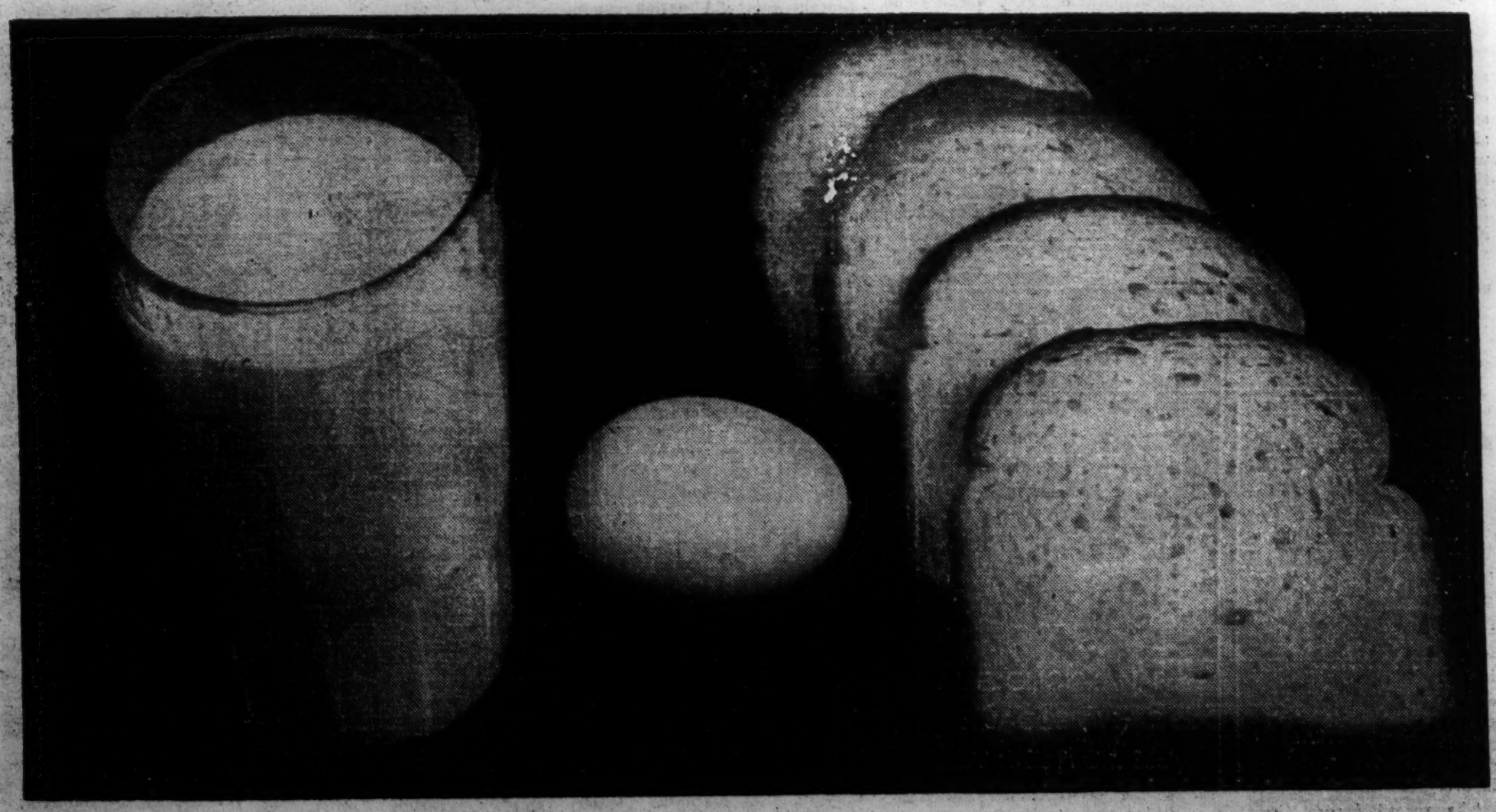
Evidence of hoarding of needed goods by manufacturers and wholesalers hoping for still greater price rises continues to pile up, the CIO Cost of Living Committee said this week in a wire to all CIO affiliates.

The wire urges all CIO unions and members to check their industries carefully for additional evidence of this hoarding, and to rush it into national headquarters where it will serve as a basis for demands for government action.

Writing to FTA Locals, Research Director Joseph Califf said: "If you have any evidence that the company you deal with is piling up goods in its warehouses which normally would be moving to market, please let me know about it and I will pass the information along to the CIO.

"Please give as much information as you can as to what products are being hoarded, where they are being hoarded, and the quantity being hoarded."

Information should be rushed to Califf at FTA-CIO, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania.



Here's one of the by-products of the wrecking job Congress did on price control. Picture shows amount of food the daily welfare allowance of 26c buys for a growing child in Washington, D. C., today. One egg, one glass of milk, four slices of bread. Remember this in November, too.

Jim Crow—'The Most Explosive Issue Today'

By Donald Henderson, President, FTA-CIO

The most explosive single issue facing the American workers today is the issue of discrimination against minority peoples in general and against the Negro people in particular.

The issue is explosive because it involves the welfare of 13,000,000 Americans who happen to be Negroes. It is explosive because it involves the welfare of a large sector—10 percent—of our population, almost all of them members of the working class.

This is important enough. Still more important is the fact that the issue of discrimination against one or a dozen groups of our people, large or small, involves the welfare and the future of every man, woman and child in our nation.

Over the years of struggle for freedom, the workers of the United States have learned the lesson of solidarity. They have learned that a strike or a picket-line set up by one group of workers must be respected by all workers—if the people are to win against the exploiters.

The CIO and the FTA have recognized this fact since they were first established. We of FTA-CIO have always based ourselves on the solidarity and unity of all workers—and we owe our success to the fact that we have always fought discrimination wherever we met it, whether in the shop, in political life, in the community or anywhere.

No Other Basis

There can be no other basis for union organization, if the unions want to advance the interests of their members and of the communities in which they live. Those unions of the AFL that do not fight discrimination, or which permit it in their own ranks, not only hurt the Negro people, but inflict real damage on their white members as well.

Employers know this well. That is why they practice discrimination wherever they can, why they promote jim crow and why they oppose the FEPC, the repeal of the poll-tax, the passage of federal anti-lynching laws.

Discrimination means cash in their pockets, because employers recognize that low wages and menial jobs foisted on Negro workers help keep wages and conditions of all workers down.

To defeat this conspiracy of the exploiters against workers of all colors and national origins, the workers must everywhere carry over the same solidarity they show on the picket line to their communities and to the political battles they engage in.

The election of a Bilbo, a Rankin, a Talmadge in the South, where Negro workers and farmers are prevented from voting is a set-back for workers and farmers everywhere—just as the election of a Republican reactionary in the North sets us all back.

Foreign Policy, Too

In the same way, the conduct of our foreign affairs must not be left in the hands of men who believe in and who practice discrimination. James F. Byrnes, our Secretary of State, likes to lecture Europe on democracy. James F. Byrnes was never elected by more than 10% of the voters in his district.

They tell a story about Byrnes, when he was a Senator back in 1938. The anti-lynching bill was up in the Senate and was being filibustered to death.

President Roosevelt sent a message to Byrnes, asking him when the filibuster would stop and reminding him that the bill was a "must" on the New Deal calendar. Byrnes sent back his message to FDR: "Tell him the filibuster will go on until the year 2,000, if necessary to stop this thing."

New Men Needed

We cannot let the advocates of jim crow conduct our foreign affairs anymore than we can continue to let the union-haters and the open shop employers run our economy at home. They must all be swept out of public life and new men, men who believe in fraternity and equality of all peoples, put in their place.

A long time ago Abraham Lincoln said: "A nation cannot endure half slave and half free." A great war was fought to end the situation Lincoln described. Today, we have just fought another great war to end the threat of fascist slavery for all mankind.

To win that fight, to make our victory permanent, we must unite with peoples of all colors, of all creeds, of all national and racial origins—and together, end the slavery and exploitation that is bred by jim crow and subjection of minority groups.

Pepper's Warning

PEACE OR EXTERMINATION

PEACE or extermination. That is the choice facing the human race.

"Whether we can pursue our daily tasks in undisturbed quiet or whether we are torn from our normal ways and thrust into the anguish of desperate combat with all of man's weapons of terror and death; whether we dwell in our several places of comfort and safety or whether we cringe in the slimy mud, or crouch in dark cellars, or hide like hunted beasts in holes, choked by strangling gas or stricken down by raging virus—all this depends on whether we live in a world of peace or war."

This was the solemn warning sounded by Senator Claude Pepper at a huge Labor Day rally held in Los Angeles' Hollywood Bowl.

"The unity painfully achieved by President Roosevelt in war and victory has been lost in peace," Pepper declared.

"Our voice, which in its natural role is the voice of the rights of man—the voice of the American and French Revolutions—has taken on harsh overtones of repression.

"Our duty to avoid isolation like a plague does not lead us into fraternal association with any powers to exploit jointly with them the oil of the Middle East; to preserve for them their old mastery of subject peoples; to share with them exclusive control and domination of the Mediterranean; to perpetuate Western European domination of the Balkans or the Danube; to construct another Cordon Sanitaire around the Soviet Union; to retain for our joint selves supreme mastery over every passageway between every ocean and sea, over every strategic base on the face of the globe.

"Let the people demand that international confidence be restored, that faith and trust be revived so that the atomic bomb shall no longer be a Damoclean Sword held over heads of any people, so that their leaders laying aside all lesser demands, shall assemble together and remain together until, in a spirit of Christianity and Democracy, they can rebuild those enduring foundations of peace which FDR laid with his own trowel and hand."

"And let the people be no less certain that Democracy prevail in our own land!

"How much longer shall we deny to the laborer, wherever he works, his just hire? How much longer shall we let the aged sicken and die in destitution? How much longer shall we let the breadwinner, disabled, remain destitute?

"How much longer shall we deny Democracy in any part of America because of race or sex?

"We have a choice to make today. We can make the world the best world man has ever known with all science its obedient servant, or the lag of our spirit behind our minds will make our creation our masters to destroy us.

"Or, spurning this choice, we can deepen the chasms which divide us; fatten the monsters of selfishness and hate. We can let the blessings of science become our curse and eventually be our destroyer.

"Our dead look down upon us and remind us of all they have paid for this right of choice which we possess. An immeasurable future beckons us on. Let us make the right choice, and God helping us, our leaders not failing us, enter into the rich green valleys of peace and plenty for ourselves and for mankind."

One of Rep. John Rankin's (D., Miss.) biggest boasts is that he, Rankin, is the "veteran's best friend." It's a lie! Rankin's record in shelving a bill to provide cars for veterans who have lost legs in the war proves it's a lie. Rankin held the bill in committee for four months, was only by-passed when Sen. Magnusson (D., Wash.) tacked it onto another bill as an amendment.

World Labor Union Set To Mark First Birthday

(ALN)—When leaders of the World Federation of Trade Unions meet in Washington on Sept. 20, it will mark one year—almost to the day—since delegates from 69 countries gathered in Paris to form an organization dedicated to the final defeat of fascism, to lasting peace and to the establishment of a high standard of living for workers in every corner of the world.

The record before the delegates in Washington, when they sit down to assess the work done during the past year, will show that the WFTU played a major part in mobilizing popular demonstrations against the Franco dictatorship in Spain; that it waged a vigorous fight for world labor's voice to be heard in the councils of the United Nations; that it stepped forward to help guarantee genuine de-Nazification in Germany; that the bonds between workers in various countries were strengthened by the progress toward establishing international trade departments.

However, it will also show that Franco is still in power, that the WFTU has not received real recognition from the United Nations and that fascism is still alive in Germany. These are the problems that the Washington meeting will face, and from its deliberations it is expected that a new program of action will emerge.

With the admission of six new trade union centers, the WFTU now represents about 70,000,000 workers. Its affiliates include virtually every labor organization in the world, the AFL being the sole major exception.

'Food Now—Or Coffins Later'

By Connie Anderson

There is a food crisis. High prices at home make it impossible for millions of our people to buy what they need. And throughout the world many more millions are actually starving.

We all know that. We have been to the store, cut short on the amount of milk or butter we could buy. We have all seen the tragic pictures of hungry people in Europe, Africa, Asia—in every spot on earth.

Some FTA members have even seen slack work schedules in their plant because food was not available to process.

"Food Now," a 10c pamphlet by Charles J. Coe explains why we have this hunger in the world. It exposes the failure of our own government to work for abundant food for the people and describes how food it being used for big profits and as a political weapon against democratic governments.

Common sense tells us that after the war our own country, rich in agricultural lands, could have poured out food in great quantity at fair prices; that we could work with the United Nations to get substantial quantities of food to those starving in the war's aftermath.

That was Roosevelt's program. Under his leadership we were to work to "banish th scourge of hunger from the earth."

What have we done in practice?

On December 1, 1945, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson called for a reduction in 1946 of seven million acres below the goals for the previous year.

Under the pressure of big business we were launched on a policy of low supplies, high prices—to make profits for the big food processing concerns, at the expense of the workers, farmers and ordinary people of America.

Price controls have since been virtually smashed—with only a last feeble struggle going on with the meat trusts to try to keep the lid at least partially on meat prices.

The hunger march was openly launched when Herbert Hoover—of all people—was called into the White House as the food expert. The Great Engineer, ousted by the American people in the depth of the depression, was called in by President Truman, who claims he is following Roosevelt's program!

That's due to the fraud which is exposed in "Food Now." Hoover's "plan" was only a plan for hunger and big profits, a plan to use food as a political weapon to bolster reactionary governments abroad and to fight against people's movements struggling for a new deal.

Hoover immediately flew to all parts of the world claiming that he had "to get the true, first-hand facts."

The true nature of this "fact-finding" mission was hinted at when Governor Lehman resigned from UNRRA, charging that the government already had the facts and pointed out that "starving people cannot eat facts."

At the same time, we were given the story that the food crisis would last only 120 days, and that if we would all eat less in the 37 ways listed by Herbie Hoover, all would be well. CIO's demand for rationing, price control and expanded production was ignored.

The 120 days are well over, and we are eating less, not according to Hoover's high-sounding rules, but according to our pay envelopes which don't match the steadily rising prices.

"When Hoover returned from the first lap of his hunger flight, he immediately began to step up the food offensive against the peace," Coe points out.

"By continuing to claim that the 'immediate' crisis would be over by September 1 and by using fanciful arithmetic to prove that he had 'almost' closed the hunger gap, Hoover sought to kick the props out from under UNRRA.

"While thus plotting to halt UNRRA's food shipments to people's having progressive governments, Hoover recommended that 240,000 tons of cereals be shipped to Spain in order to stave off the collapse of the fascist Franco government.

"He urged that 870,000 tons of cereals be sent to Japan and 1,370,000 tons to the Allied Zones in Germany, during the period May-September, 1946."

After setting forth the facts on the Food Crisis, Coe shows that what is happening to our food policy is part and parcel of the betrayal of the Roosevelt fight for peace and plenty. Instead, Hoover and his Big Business friends are leading down the road of preparation for a war against Russia.

A minority of the Senators and Congressmen and others in public life—people like Senator Claude Pepper are fighting tooth and nail for the "lasting peace" and "freedom from hunger" for which Roosevelt stood.

It's up to us to strengthen this fight by working and voting in the 1946 elections.

FTA members will be helped in the election campaign by "Food Now." Get your copy by sending 10c to Farm Research, 39 Cortlandt St., New York 7, N.Y.

THE BIG SQUEEZE

MR. BIG is going to town with a vengeance. The Smaller War Plants Corporation recently reported on the appalling increase of monopoly control over the American economy during the world war. But this trend did not stop with the end of the war. It has continued and become accentuated since then.

A United Press report shows there has been no decrease in the war-swollen number of billion-dollar corporations, and that the 43 members of this "billionaires' club" have now increased their total assets from 97.7 billion dollars, as of Dec. 31, 1944, to 101.8 billions.

This means that something like one-fourth of America's corporate wealth is concentrated in only 43 giant monopolies.

• • •

OWNERSHIP of American corporations is also concentrated in the hands of a comparatively few wealthy stockholders.

Figures of the Temporary National Economic Committee, a few years ago, showed that only 10 thousand persons owned one-fourth, and 75 thousand persons owned one-half, of all the corporate stock in the country.

The 1,000 largest dividend recipients received 10.4% of all dividends paid, while 61 thousand persons received one-half.

Further emphasizing this maldistribution of wealth, government figures show that in July of this year 10% of American families held 60% of the country's savings, while 30% had no savings at all.

• • •

BIG BUSINESS and its millionaire owners not only monopolize American finance and industry, but their controlling influence is felt in nearly every phase of our economic and political life.

Particularly noteworthy is the increasing big-business monopoly over newspaper publishing, radio and other media for forming and controlling public opinion.

Though newspaper circulation has more than doubled since 1909, the number of daily papers has almost been cut in half. Big-business newspaper chains, by 1940, controlled about two-fifths of the country's entire daily circulation and one-half of the Sunday circulation.

The extent of big business' influence in politics was clearly demonstrated by the 79th Congress, which speedily granted its demands for increased prices, profits and privileges, while blocking or defeating all progressive social legislation which big business opposed.

• • •

IN its constant drive for more monopoly and greater profits, big business has been responsible for the wrecking of price control and the present inflation.

The results of its rule are felt in decreasing opportunities for small business, in lower real wages for labor, and in higher prices and devalued savings for all.

Big business is also pushing for an aggressive and belligerent foreign policy, to further its aims of monopolizing world markets and to suppress the democratic forces that might threaten its profits.

• • •

THE recent stock-market slump is one of many indications that the big squeeze of greedy and increasing monopoly is creating an unholy mess.

Although profits and dividends have been increasing, there was the most sweeping recession in stocks since October, 1937.

By forcing up prices and profits at the expense of wages and the people's purchasing power, big business has raised the specter of a declining domestic market, while foreign market prospects are also shrinking due to international uncertainties.

The American people face lower living standards, depression, unemployment and possibly another war unless they curb the power and greed of the big-business monopolists.

The power to do this rests in the strength of the labor movement and in the progressive political activity to which the CIO is trying to arouse all Americans.

from CIO News

FTA Cannery Pushes Ahead On PAC Work

Smoke and dirt of the California cannery election had hardly begun to settle when FTA-CIO workers from the Fruitvale plant began to get busy with political action.

At Fruitvale, one of the five independent canneries that gave a majority vote to FTA, two registrars were stationed at the plant gates, registering hundreds of Negro and white workers. FTA loud speakers urged all to be ready to vote for a state FEPC this November.

At the same time the FTA committee for the state Fair Employment Practices measure distributed buttons urging a Yes vote for Proposition No. 11 in the coming California election.

Arrangements for the registrars and the FEP buttons were made by the Local 50 EP group and Ole Fagerbaugh, CIO political action director for Alameda county.

Importance of FEP success is nowhere greater than in the Oakland-Alameda area where tens of thousands of Negro workers, both in and out of canneries, face job discrimination and fear of joblessness unless there is a state law to prevent bias in hiring on account of skin color or creed.

Asks U. S. To Run Meat Industry

By Norman Dolnick, Publicity Director United Packinghouse Workers, CIO

OPERATION of the packing plants as a public utility was demanded by the CIO Packinghouse Workers so that the people can be protected against the greed of the big packers and that packinghouse workers can be assured full employment at the packing plants.

In a statement which reiterated the union's position that price control must be retained on meats, Pres. Ralph Helstein of the UPWA asserted that the operation of the plants as a public utility would check the abuse of economic power by the packers against the best interests of the people.

Helstein noted that in the packers' renewed drive against price control thousands of packinghouse workers from all sections of the country have been laid off.

The UPWA is now negotiating with the packers for a guaranteed annual wage, $1 an hour minimum wage and a cost of living bonus.

"Had a guaranteed wage plan been in effect in the past year the packers would not have gone on their sit-down strike against OPA and we would not now be faced with a meat shortage and unemployment at the packing plants," Helstein declared.

As a further measure to draw the reins on the packers, the union demanded that Congress set up a committee of responsible citizens to investigate the causes of the current meat shortage and determine to what extent the packers are responsible for the present crisis.

"Deadline For Action" Applies To All CIO

Something new has been added to your list of "must" movies —a CIO movie with a meaning for every union member, his wife and his family.

The movie is "Deadline For Action," produced by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, and avaliable for local showings on 16mm projectors at a $10 rental fee.

The movie tells the story of a UE-CIO member, Bill Turner by name, and his struggle to build his union, fight off attacks on his standard of living, defend his family from the onslaughts of big business and monopoly.

It started out to be a story of the big UE-CIO strikes since V-J Day, but its producers quickly realized that the story was even broader than the struggle on the picketline.

As a result, "Deadline For Action" developed into a 40-minute presentation of the role political action must play in the lives of all workers.

Beginning with the big strikes of 1946, the film flashes back to 1919, when big business made a smashing attack on trade unions, with wholesale layoffs, wage cuts and inevitably, the depression of 1929.

It goes on to show that while trade unionism is vital in the workers' fight against monopoly, by itself trade unionism is not enough. Something new has to be added—and that something new is political action.

Bill Turner learns this lesson rapidly. After bitter strike struggles — when pickets were hounded and beaten by police, as in the picture below—he discovered that the bosses have more than one way of increasing profits at his expense.

This fact of life hits him when higher living costs take away practically all the wage increases won on the picket line. It hits him again when reactionary Congressmen, both Republicans and Democrats, wreck price control and OPA, pushing his living standards down.

Feeling and understanding these developments, Bill Turner realizes that he must win victories at the ballot box as well as on the strike front.

"Vote and vote right," the film warns. "Canvassing, registering, voting . . . sustained, organized effort by every local union in the community . . . will hold the gains of the picketlines."

"Deadline For Action" was filmed by a new group of cooperative workers, some of whom helped make some of the most successful documentary films during the war.

It can be bought outright at $65, or rented at $10 a showing, from Union Films, 1507 M St NW, Washington, D.C.

If you're tired of Hollywood's boy-meets-girl-boy-gets-girl boloney, arrange for your local to show "Deadline For Action." It's a five-star must on anybody's movie program.

NO. 1 JOB — REGISTER!

CIO Political Action Committee Director Jack Kroll this week placed the responsibility for 100% registration of CIO members squarely on the shoulders of state and city CIO-PAC and CIO Council heads.

Kroll, in a letter, stressed the emergency of the November Congressional elections and the urgency of a deluge of votes this year. He warned against the possibility of a new Congress which would destroy labor's gains and "attack our very existence."

Citing a recent Gallup report which showed America lagging in the number of citizens who take advantage of their right to vote in comparison with European voters, Kroll stated:

This will be our first general election since the War. Eighty-nine percent of the eligible voters in Italy voted in June; 81% of the French and 79% of the British cast ballots. With relatively light turnouts in America's first postwar primaries, it is easy to see that we must increase our efforts to surpass the 55% voting mark set in 1944. There is no reason why America, the symbol of democracy throughout the world, should lag behind in the number of citizens participating in their government."

"There is one alternative facing labor if our people are not registered," the letter read. "If they don't register, we'll have a reactionary, anti-union Congress which will destroy our gains and attack our very existence. For the sake of yourself and your members, you must get 100% registration before registration deadline in your area."

The PAC chieftain urged that PAC units act immediately to take the registration message into the plants and the communities through various publicity media. The cooperation of newspapers, radio and other public information outlets should be enlisted, he added.

Tools To Work With

As in any other job, you need tools to work with when you undertake political action.

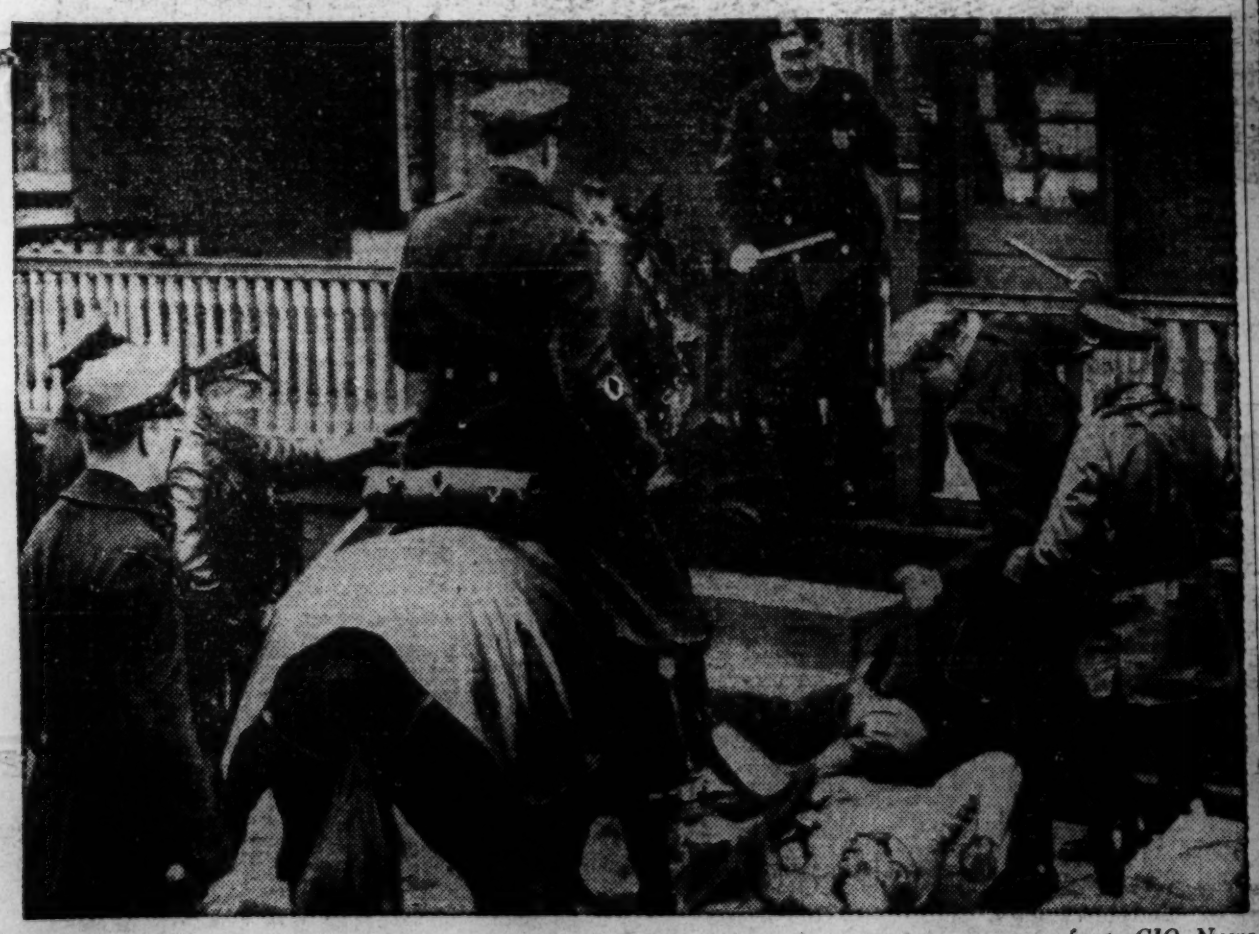
Some of these tools come in the form of literature—leaflets, pamphlets, posters, and the like.

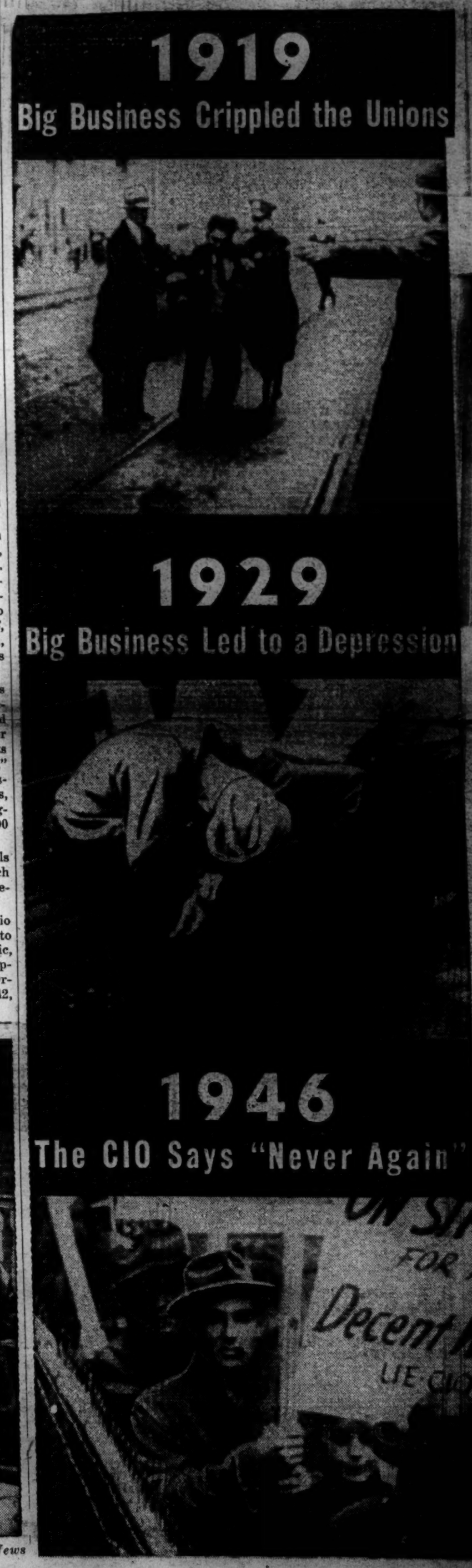
Both CIO-PAC and the national CIO itself put out excellent literature to help you do this job. Write to CIO-PAC, 205 East 42, New York 17, N.Y., for samples — then order as much as you can use.

The National CIO News has put out an excellent voting record of all Congressmen and Senators, covering 12 major votes of concern to workers. Its title is "Break Reaction's Grip," and it's a 12-page tabloid newspaper. Order from CIO News, 718 Jackson Pl., NW, Washington 6, D.C. Price, 5c each, 100 for $4.00, 500 for $15.00.

Other political action tools come in the form of movies, such as "Deadline For Action," described on this page.

Still others are recorded radio announcements, urging people to register and vote. Set to music, these can be played quite cheaply over local radio stations. Order from CIO-PAC, 205 E. 42, New York 17, N.Y.



from CIO News

Political Action Can Stop This!